

Greensboro Public Library

McGirt-Horton Branch Library New Construction Fact Sheet

History of the Project

In 1986 the McGirt-Horton Branch Library opened as a one-room community reading station in Claremont Courts. In 1989, the Library moved to a 9,700 square foot leased facility in a shopping center on Phillips Avenue.

Since then, McGirt-Horton has become an after-school classroom for children living in the Claremont community. In 2007 the Library provided 341 children's programs with more than 9,000 in attendance. This branch also focuses on the needs of teens with special resources and programming.

Many residents in the Claremont community use the Library's computers for job seeking, improving their skills or starting a business. The new facility will offer more than twenty public access computers.

Meeting space at McGirt-Horton serves as a community center where civic groups gather. The room is also used for children's story times and as an after-school activity center. The meeting space in the new facility will be bright and open with high ceilings and plenty of natural light.

In 2006, voters approved 3.7 million dollars to construct a new 10,000 square foot library facility in the shopping center where McGirt-Horton is currently located. In February 2007 a community group was formed to provide advice and oversight as the project progresses. A grant provided funds to investigate teen customers' library needs. Meetings with the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Greensboro and organizations serving the community have provided important direction as plans for the Library were developed.

Project Design Team

J. Hyatt Hammond Associates, Inc., Greensboro, NC - Programming, Architecture, Engineering.

Structural Solutions, P.A., Greensboro, NC - Structural Engineering.

CivilDesigns, P.A., Greensboro, NC - Civil Engineering.

Greensboro Engineering, PLLC, Greensboro, NC - Electrical Engineering.

sublimelime, Greensboro, NC - Children's Area.

Greenschemes, Greensboro, NC - Exterior Space Planning and Design.

Designature Landscape Architects, Greensboro, NC - Landscape Architecture.



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Project Schedule

1999: Development of Greensboro Public Library Branch and Outreach Improvement Plan

2000: Began community conversations

2003: Neighborhood Planning Report

November 2006: Bond Referendum passed (\$3,478,000)

January 2007: New Building Advisory Committee began meeting

January 2008: Shopping Center purchased

Spring 2008: Building Program completed

December 2008: Groundbreaking (scheduled) and beginning of construction

Spring 2010: Occupy new building

Highlights of the New McGirt-Horton Branch Library

- The new 10,000 square foot building will be located at the corner of Phillips Avenue and Woodbriar Avenue. This building will be the one of the first LEED Certified libraries in North Carolina. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is concerned with many aspects of “green building.” Ceiling heights will range from 12 feet in the children’s area to over 25 feet in the adult and teen areas. Large windows will provide natural daylighting and reduce daytime energy use.
- Instead of a fixed main service desk, library staff will use mobile service points for better customer service.
- The Special Collections area will include the African-American collection and the Home Improvement Center.
- The children’s area will contain special interactive features that encourage discovery and literacy.
- One wing of the building is designed for teens and will include a video lounge area and a multimedia lab area.
- The building will feature two covered exterior spaces totaling almost 3,000 square feet, accessed from inside the library. One space is for teens and the other is for adults and children.
- The building will also feature a snack/vending area with seating.
- The meeting room will feature a large window facing Phillips Avenue.
- Computers will be located throughout the new facility.
- Public art in the building will include existing artwork from the current facility as well as new installations.
- The building will serve as a model for future redevelopment of the shopping center site.